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Senate trio out! ... what do you mean, details?

Tories discover suspensions are without precedent PAGE 12

NO JEANS FOR ME

IN WHICH SHANNON REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN MORALE-BOOSTING OFFICE-ATTIRE THEME DAY PAGE 18

U OF C STUDENTS WEIGH IN

Thousands of students at the University of Calgary were asked their opinions on the future of the MacEwan Student Centre, seen here, widely regarded as one of the most popular spots on campus. For an exclusive first look at the results of that survey, head to page 8. GLENN KELLY/FOR METRO

Post-secondary gets $50M boost from province

Student demand. Funds aimed at increasing enrolment on Alberta campuses

Student space at Alberta post-secondary institutions could be beefed up as early as January, as the province announced Wednesday it was handing back a third of the funds slashed in March's tough provincial budget.

The $50-million injection will be spread "equitably" among 20 schools hit by the cuts, using a formula that tacks 2.6 per cent worth of funding onto their base amount, said Advanced Education Minister and Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk.

However, the money will come with conditions that schools use it solely to boost enrolment, or fund "over-enrolment," he said. The cash covered a little more than a third of the $147 million cut in the austere spring budget.

"What it really underscores is, as I've always said, this was a budget of necessity, not choice — the moment I can reinvest, I will," Lukaszuk said. "It's sort of promise made, promise kept."

Opposition critics were quick to suggest the damage to many institutions had already been done.

"The problem is, if you're at the institution, you can't just snap your fingers and recreate programs that you've cut, bring back professors that have left and increase enrolment numbers when you've reduced them," said Wildrose advanced education critic Bruce McAllister.

A Metro analysis in August found that 45 programs had been suspended or eliminated and faculty positions had been reduced by 500 spots. Schools like the University of Alberta had also warned that the worst may be yet to come as they mulled over shortfalls into the tens of millions.

Even with the funding announcement Wednesday, officials with major institutions were cautious to speculate on whether there would be an immediate impact.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

How much per school?

- **University of Calgary:** $10.7 million
- **SAIT:** $3.4 million
- **Mount Royal University:** $2.1 million
- **Bow Valley College:** $894,000
- **Alberta College of Art and Design:** $305,000

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

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Post-secondary funds

New cash means less severe cuts at MRU: President

Cuts to enrolment at Mount Royal University, which was rocked by a dismal March budget, won't go as deep thanks to new funding for the post-secondary sector, says the school's president.

MRU suspended eight programs and trimmed staff levels in the spring to overcome a $14-million budgeting gap, and it had only recently unveiled plans to trim enrolment by 10 per cent in the face of "unprecedented demand" from qualified student applicants.

But president David Docherty said Wednesday afternoon that while it was too early to determine exactly how the additional $2.1 million coming his way would be doled out, it would definitely mean more students on Mount Royal's campus than previously expected.

"Obviously they (provincial officials) want to see it used in programs that have high demand, both in terms of student desires and access and in Alberta economy and society," he said. "Now is not the time to come up with a fancy new niche program."

Statements from both SAIT and the University of Calgary also welcomed the additional funding, but executives were not available for interviews.

Conner Brown with the U of C Students' Union said he hoped the $10.7 million coming to his school would help "quell some of the fears" from administration that they are being underfunded.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Police investigate an officer-involved shooting in the 2800 block of 12th Avenue S.E. Tuesday. Calgary's police chief and the victim's family offered different takes on how the incident likely unfolded. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Family, chief at odds over shooting

Fallout. Relatives stunned after officer's decision to fire at man behind the wheel

Family members say Matthew Brown isn't a dangerous guy and they're distraught over a police officer's decision to shoot him.

Chris Brown told reporters that his younger brother has "certain conditions" that cause him to fall asleep at times — including while driving.

"He'd rather slow down for a minute and take care of the situation than hurt somebody or possibly himself," Chris said.

Calgary police found Matthew sleeping behind the wheel in Radisson Heights-Albert Park on Tuesday. It's unclear exactly what happened next, but Matthew began to drive away in the Dodge pickup truck.

One officer fired three shots at the truck before it slammed into a garage in the 2800 block of 12 Avenue S.E.

"He was asleep. He was startled," his mother said.

Calgary's top cop, meanwhile, defended his officer's "split-second" decision.

Police Chief Rick Hanson reminded reporters he's been a cop for nearly four decades, and he contended it's "very unusual" for sleeping motorists to respond to police by fleeing.

"They may be startled but their first impulse is not to bolt," Hanson said. "Let's be clear here, the actions of the person behind the wheel of the vehicle were theirs and theirs alone."

The chief would not comment on whether the driver tried to run over the officer, but he said one officer felt his life was at risk.

Matthew was reported to have previous criminal dealings, which his family contended were non-violent in nature. He was said to remain in hospital in critical condition.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO
WITH FILES FROM NEWSTALK770

Cops on the scene

- Police said the shooting officer was reported to be on the job for 18 months and the other had at least four years of experience.
- Per standard practice, the shooting officer has been taken off the job for 30 days with full pay.
- The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team is leading the investigation.

'Superhero'. Metro Man honoured by U of C students

He wears a long bib instead of a cape and he's armed with newspapers, not crime-fighting skills, but Metro Man is every bit as important to thousands of University of Calgary students as your average superhero.

In reality, the man behind the stacks of green-bannered tabloids is 57-year-old Ralph Boland, currently in his second year distributing on the U of C campus. Even in the biting cold, the promoter's friendly demeanour has caught the attention of students, who took it upon themselves to honour him in a special way.

First, two posts went up on the U of C compliments Facebook page Tuesday recognizing Boland's efforts. At press time Wednesday, 1,500 well-wishers had liked the post and dozens more had left comments commending him.

"I take a newspaper even if I've already read it in the morning!," wrote one student. "Just seeing your kind smile after a particularly bad day makes everything a little better."

Administrators behind the Facebook page, who remain anonymous, also drafted up a Metro article of their own and a thank-you card filled with kind words and delivered it to Boland Wednesday.

The modest promoter, who doles out about 650 Metros each afternoon, said he's simply doing his job.

"It's nice at the university," he said. "People are generally really nice ... I like being outside, it's a lot better than being at a desk all day."

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Ralph Boland, a Metro promoter GLENN KELLY/FOR METRO

Wednesday's Metro

Clarification

In story published on Page 3 in Wednesday's Metro, we wrote that a Mission condo building damaged by June's flooding was without heat. It was later determined that the building did have heat but that there were individual units that may be without heat due to possible zone valve or thermometer issues. The building does have work permits for ongoing work at the site to remedy these situations. We regret any confusion this may have caused. METRO

History of gang violence

Charge laid in fatal reserve shooting

RCMP have charged a man with first-degree murder in the shooting of a woman on a reserve south of Edmonton with a history of gang violence.

Police say 23-year-old Chelsea Yellowbird from the Samson Cree First Nation was shot and killed at her home on Sept. 5, 2011.

RCMP have charged 20-year-old Shelby Minde of Hobbema after a two-year investigation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Staff Sgt. Craig Skelton says the theft of poppy boxes around Remembrance Day is a matter of desperation. GLENN KELLY/FOR METRO

Charges laid in Poppy Fund theft

Veterans 'very angry'. Volunteers who run the campaign upset over the crimes

Police have nabbed a suspect in connection with the theft of Calgary Poppy Fund donation pots at three venues in the city's southeast and northwest.

But Joey Bleviss, the fund's chief financial officer, said earlier Wednesday that 31 pots have now been stolen from various venues around the city.

"It's very frustrating for the volunteers," he said of the thefts. "I'm quite upset about it — quite annoyed. A lot of these volunteers are the veterans and they're very angry."

Metro reported Monday that at least 16 pots had gone missing since the campaign, which serves as the primary annual fundraiser to support local veterans and their families, launched Oct. 25.

Staff Sgt. Craig Skelton said police, meanwhile, have been made aware of nine theft incidents related to the fund and have now charged 35-year-old Bryan Joseph James in connection with three of them.

"It's really unfortunate that people feel compelled to steal a box used for donations to help fund programs for our veterans," Skelton said.

"The boxes are accessible to the public and there's a certain degree of trust."

Skelton noted there are programs for those in need so that they don't resort to stealing from charities.

James is previously known to police. GLENN KELLY AND JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Funds raised

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Last year, the Calgary Poppy Fund raised more than $2 million.

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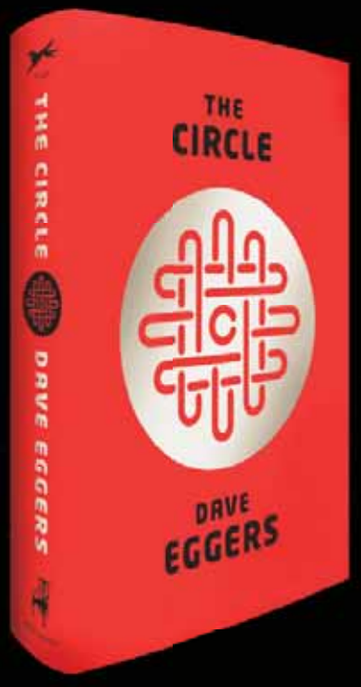

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–THE NEW YORK TIMES

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and he is us."
–LEV GROSSMAN, TIME

BY DAVE EGGERS

RANDOMHOUSE.CA
MCSWEENEYS.NET/BOOKS

Simon Tusek, co-ordinator of training, showcases Calgary Transit's new C-Train simulator. BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

$1.8M C-Train sim on track for 2014

First of its kind in Canada. Calgary Transit unveils new virtual-driving machine to help trainee operators deal with the unexpected

Rookie Calgary Transit operators can now ride the rails without leaving the office, thanks to a flashy new driving simulator unveiled Wednesday.

Stephen Hansen, manager of safety and security, told reporters that trainers can now serve up "controlled scenarios" to keep aspiring operators on their toes.

"We can present a vehicle running a red light to an operator, which you obviously can't do when the trainee is out on a train," Hansen said.

Such was the case in a trio of LRT-vs.-car crashes in which police laid charges against drivers in the past week.

The simulator was first test-run in October and is expected to be fully incorporated by early 2014.

Transit officials are heralding the $1.8-million simulator as the first of its kind in Canada, with only comparable heavy-rail models in Toronto and Montreal.

On Monday, reporters were given a chance to get behind the wheel and test out the video screen with a 220-degree field of vision.

The simulator generated a lifelike map and audio of Calgary's rail line. It also produced obstacles including deer, debris and snow.

"It's like the best video game you could have in your basement," Hansen said.

BRYAN WEISMILLER/METRO

Air, water, soil quality

Province passes bill to create environmental-monitoring panel

The Alberta government has passed legislation for an arm's-length panel to monitor the environment and help officials reduce pollution in years to come.

The Protecting Alberta's Environment Act passed third reading in the legislature Tuesday night.

Environment Minister Diana McQueen says the act will create an agency to better monitor and disperse information on air, water and soil quality.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Unacceptable.' Rural school trustee 'deeply sorry' for offensive tweets

A newly elected school trustee in rural Alberta is apologizing for sending tweets that were racist, homophobic and sexist.

James Andre said Wednesday that he never should have sent the remarks and they don't represent his views. He has since shut down his Twitter account, which used the handle @hotone1963.

"I'm deeply sorry for what happened," said the 50-year-old husband and grandfather. "I don't want people to get an impression of me, because that's really not me."

Andre said most of the comments were jokes he retweeted to his friends and he sent them out before he won his seat on the Battle River School Board on Oct. 21.

Some of the jokes denigrated black people, made reference to Auschwitz and gay sex. One called singer Miley Cyrus a prostitute.

"I found them funny so I just retweeted them," said Andre. Alberta's Education Minister Jeff Johnson called the tweets "completely unacceptable." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Raphael Jacob, president of the University of Calgary Students' Union, said a survey on the future of the MacEwan Student Centre is "statistically significant" because it involved a quarter of the current student population. METRO FILE

Students voice MacHall concerns

Survey. U of C students say they want more seats, better layout

It may be the most happening place on campus, but University of Calgary students like Amy Zell have no problem pointing out the shortcomings of the MacEwan Student Centre, known more informally as MacHall.

"I would definitely say it needs more seating," said the third-year engineering student. "There's also kind of a funny layout — things are really far apart. It sounds stupid, but the bookstore's downstairs and then if you want to go get a coffee and talk at the clubs office, it's all over the place. I think it's just generally poorly designed."

The centre is due for a $155-million makeover, according to a proposed 2011 master plan, and university executives said last year that construction could get underway in the next half-decade.

In the meantime, the students' union conducted a survey of more than 6,000 students to gauge their visions for the hall, which contains much of the university's food options as well as two bars and a host of offices and other student-life related offerings.

Raphael Jacob, union president, indicated Zell was not alone in her concerns about a lack of space.

"It's packed in here and you should see it at lunch hour — it's nuts," he said.

Another clear indication of the results was that students would not tolerate a full-scale shutdown of a venue that more than 80 per cent of them visit at least once a week, Jacob said.

"They would much prefer phased construction rather than the entire building being shut down," he said.

University executives have said that all components of the initial master plan are negotiable and they intend to work closely with students on the centre's redesign.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Survey says ...

The University of Calgary Students' Union will host a formal unveiling of the results of the MacHall survey at noon Thursday inside the centre. Students that attend will be served a free lunch.

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Construction crew finds fossilized hadrosaur

Another one! Much of the skeleton was found intact — a rare discovery

It appears that you can't dig a deep hole in Alberta without finding a duck-billed dinosaur.

For the second time in weeks, construction crews have discovered the fossilized remains of a hadrosaur, a plant-eating creature that stalked the Earth about 68 million years ago.

The latest discovery happened in Leduc, a city south of Edmonton.

A crew helping to build a housing development found the fossils six metres below the surface and called the Royal Tyrrell Museum to report the find. The crew then helped museum staff carefully remove dirt and rock from the prehistoric buried treasure.

Museum curator Francois Therrien said this dinosaur was a teenager when it died and is about eight-metres-long.

He said the fact that much of the skeleton was found intact makes it an important find — no bones about it.

"When you walk in the badlands of southern Alberta when you find dinosaur bones, nine times out of 10 it will be from a duck-billed dinosaur," he said Wednesday.

"But in terms of finding a complete skeleton — all the bones connected the way they were in life — that is really a rare discovery."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A plant-eating creature roamed here 68 million years ago. ROYAL TYRRELL MUSEUM

U of C provost: 'I think there is a way for us to create a win-win'

University of Calgary officials will only press forward with establishing a privately run international college on campus if it receives support from faculty members, says the school's provost.

Dru Marshall's comments came Wednesday morning in her first interview with Metro on the concept of a third-party "pathway program" for international students since debate surfaced in on-campus media.

The university's faculty association has vowed to fight the move, even going so far as taking the university to court.

But Marshall said she hopes to find common ground with the critical organization and only then would a proposal come forward to the university's general faculties council. She said it would be "very difficult" to establish the college without the faculty's backing.

"What I would like to do is create a win-win," she said, adding, "Is this a perfect idea? No I don't think so. But can we make it perfect with a lot of people massaging the idea, thinking about it carefully, determining a University of Calgary model? I think there is a way for us to create a win-win."

The college would act as bridge for international students, allowing them to upgrade their course learning before applying to become an actual U of C member. But the faculty association fears those students would be guaranteed automatic entry and essentially "jump the queue" ahead of domestic and international students coming in through.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Dru Marshall, provost for the University of Calgary, said the issue of establishing an outsourced international college has proved "divisive" at other Canadian schools. METRO FILE PHOTO

Infrastructure

Siksika Nation, province, draw up flood-rebuild deal

Homes on the Siksika Nation destroyed by massive June flooding will be rebuilt after an agreement was struck with the Alberta government.

Hundreds were forced from their homes in Siksika, 100 kilometres southeast of Calgary.

Now, a Memorandum of Understanding was struck between the Siksika First Nation and the Alberta government to get the repair work underway.

According to the province's Aboriginal Relations office, approximately $83 million will be doled out for rebuilding homes and infrastructure with another $10 million for skills training for First Nations impacted by the flood so they can be involved in the rebuilding of the communities. METRO

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Google says mystery solved: Barge for interactive learning

Three vessels.
The East Coast boat built in New London, Conn., in July was recently towed to Maine

Internet giant Google says it is exploring using a large barge as an interactive learning centre.

A statement released Wednesday from Google's press centre may help end weeks of speculation about the purpose of structures on two barges, one being built in the San Francisco Bay, another off Portland, Maine.

"Google Barge ... A floating data centre? A wild party boat? A barge housing the last remaining dinosaur? Sadly, none of the above," says the statement. "Although it's still early days and things may change, we're exploring using the barge as an interactive space where people can learn about new technology."

Shrouded in secrecy

Until now, city officials responsible for land use and state officials responsible for the bay have said they didn't know what was being built there.

- Coast-guard inspectors who visited the construction sites had to sign non-disclosure agreements.

Google did not specify in the statement if it was referring to both barges or, if just one, which one, and the firm did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Google has been building a four-storey structure in San Francisco Bay for weeks, but managed to conceal its purpose by constructing it on docked barges instead of on land, where city building permits and public plans are mandatory. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo shows a barge on Treasure Island in San Francisco on Tuesday. It is one of three mysterious floating structures that have sparked online speculation. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurassic discovery.
'King of gore' dino ruled before its T. rex cousin

Paleontologists on Wednesday unveiled a new dinosaur discovered in the western state of Utah that proves giant tyrant dinosaurs like the Tyrannosaurus rex were around 10 million years earlier than previously believed.

A full skeletal replica of the carnivore — the equivalent of the great uncle of the T. rex — was on display at the Natural History Museum of Utah alongside a 3D model of the head and a large painted mural of the dinosaur roaming a shoreline.

It was the public's first glimpse at the new species, which researchers named Lythronax argestes. The first part of the name means "king of gore," and the second part is derived from poet Homer's southwest wind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Formula six?

Google ordered to block Max Mosley orgy photos

A French court ruled Wednesday that Google must rid its search results of nine images of an orgy involving former Formula One chief Max Mosley.

Google's associate general counsel, Daphne Keller, said the ruling amounted to asking the search giant to build a "censorship machine."

Google is concerned it wouldn't be able to build a filter that only targets the Mosley images but would accidentally also weed out lawful content.

"This is a troubling ruling with serious consequences for free expression, and we will appeal it," said Keller. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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It's all in the details: Tories seek answers in Senate suspensions

Questions, questions … The Conservative government is scrambling to figure out what the suspensions of three of its own senators actually mean.

Tuesday's suspensions of Mike Duffy, Pamela Wallin and Patrick Brazeau for allegedly fraudulent expense claims are without precedent and the government still hasn't figured out all the answers. Are the three entirely off the public payroll, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper claims.

Is Duffy eligible for a disability allowance?

Will the trio's time in political purgatory — as much as two years — count toward the six years of service needed to be eligible for a generous parliamentary pension?

Good questions — and it's up to the Senate to answer them, said Treasury Board President Tony Clement.

"You're asking very legitimate questions and there should be answers to those questions," Clement said, stressing that the Senate runs its own internal affairs.

"I honestly don't know the answer to that."

Claude Carignan, government leader in the Senate, called the questions are "technicalities" that will be sorted out.

Wallin's lawyer, Terrence O'Sullivan, said she will consider legal action if the Senate tries to tamper with her pension eligibility.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair — a champion of abolishing the Senate entirely — said he "couldn't care less" about the pension and disability allowance questions.

"You're asking me to comment on the flowers in the tapestry when we want to roll up the red carpet," he shrugged.

Another question lingers: How will the Senate collect reimbursement from Brazeau for $48,000 in disallowed living expenses if he's no longer collecting a salary?

Brazeau has insisted he did nothing wrong and has refused to repay the money.

Gregory Thomas, federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers' Association, said "there's nothing in the legislation" to suggest the suspensions will impact the trio's pension eligibility, provided they continue to make contributions.

Duffy, the eldest of the three at 67, would be immediately eligible in 2015 for an annual pension of $58,264, according to the federation.

"There's nothing in the parliamentary pension legislation that contemplates somebody being suspended," Thomas said. The law deals only with those members who are expelled, he added.

"All it says is that members have to contribute their share of the plan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"They've been making this whole process up as they go along."

James Cowan, Senate Liberal leader, claiming the Tories rushed the suspensions through.

Scandal on his doorstep: Prime Minister Stephen Harper answers questions in the House of Commons on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Not a care in the world? Toronto Mayor Rob Ford shows staffers' children around city hall on Wednesday — Take Your Kids To Work Day. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friends, foes tell Ford: Go, go, go

No, no, no! Toronto mayor refuses to step aside for a bit and get some help after his crack bombshell

Crack-smoking Toronto Mayor Rob Ford has united the political spectrum.

Both conservative and left-leaning politicians are telling him to step aside in the wake of his bombshell admission he has smoked crack cocaine during his time in office.

When the Toronto Star and the U.S. website Gawker first reported in May that a video showed the mayor smoking crack, Ford denied it and his closest allies stood by him.

But now that he has admitted to the drug use and police have said they have the video, politicians of all stripes are urging him to get help.

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly said Wednesday: "I'm inviting him today … to take a pause with all its advantages, because it's the one option that looks after all of the issues on the table."

Ontario Opposition Leader Tim Hudak said that if Ford called him for advice he would tell him to put his family first and get healthy.

Fervent city hall ally Coun. Frances Nunziata said she and fellow supporters are urging him to take a leave of absence. "I was hoping he would listen to us."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Making a hash (tag) of it!

The Twittersphere is buzzing — thousands have issued scolding tweets about the behaviour of Rob Ford.

- **Uh-oh.** Rob Ford, a professor at the University of Manchester in Britain has received a barrage of fiery tweets — and he's not too happy.
- **Not amused.** "It seems the other Rob Ford is in trouble again," the U.K.'s Ford tweeted. "Torontonians, I am not him. I am much more boring."
- **Last straw.** He also tweeted: "Not fat, not Canadian, not a mayor of anything."

Poaching warning

Environmental 'crime wave' cited

The illegal cutting of timber and the poaching of elephants and rhinos are part of a "rapidly escalating environmental crime wave." police and environmental officials said in Nairobi, Kenya, Wednesday.

International governments must combat by increasing co-operation, they said.

Interpol and the United Nations Environmental Program are working together to stop environmental crimes that cost tens of billions of dollars a year, said Achim Steiner, the UN Environmental Program's Executive Director.

Some 500 law enforcement and environmental experts from around the world are meeting in Nairobi this week to try to stem the problem.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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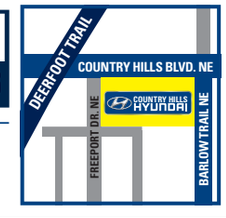

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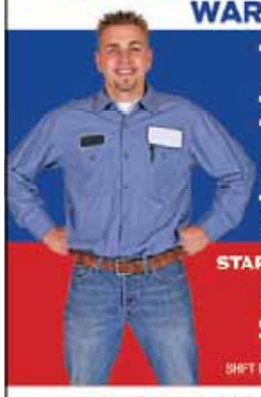

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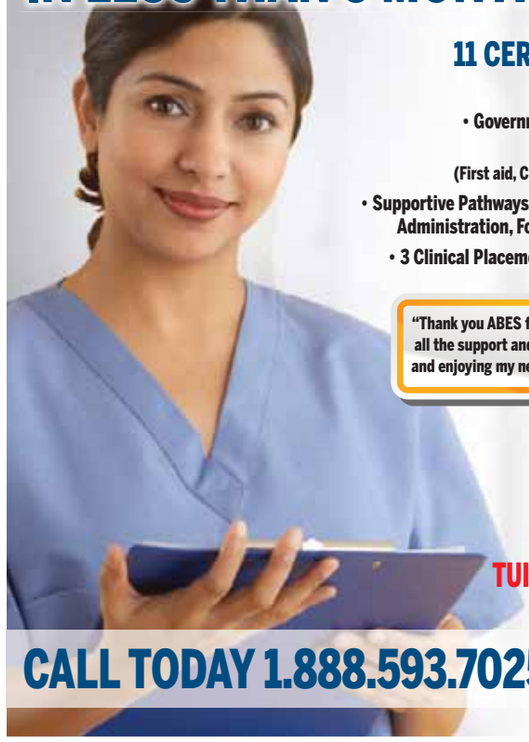

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In this photo from 2002, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat pauses during Friday prayers in his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Al-Jazeera is reporting that Swiss scientists have found evidence that Arafat died of poisoning, publishing a copy of what it said was the scientists' report on its website on Wednesday. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Arafat may have been poisoned

Report. Swiss scientists say the Palestinian leader's death could be due to a rare, deadly radioactive isotope

Swiss scientists have found evidence suggesting Yasser Arafat may have been poisoned, TV station Al-Jazeera reported Wednesday, prompting new allegations by his widow that the Palestinian leader was the victim of a "shocking, shocking" crime.

Palestinian officials have long accused Israel of poisoning Arafat, a claim Israel has denied. Arafat died under mysterious circumstances at a French military hospital in 2004, a month after falling ill at his West Bank compound.

The findings reported Wednesday appear to be the most significant so far in an investigation into Arafat's death initiated by his widow, Suha, and Al-Jazeera.

Last year, Switzerland's Institute of Radiation Physics discovered traces of polonium-210, a deadly radioactive isotope, on some of Arafat's belongings. Soil and bone samples were subsequently taken from Arafat's grave in the West Bank.

On Wednesday, Al-Jazeera published the Swiss team's 108-page report. The results "moderately support the proposition that the death was the consequence of poisoning with polonium-210," the report said.

Polonium is a rare and lethal substance. The element can be a byproduct of the processing of uranium, but usually is made artificially in a nuclear reactor or a particle accelerator.

The examination of Arafat's remains found "unexpectedly high levels" of polonium-210, the Swiss team wrote.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia

Huge crackdown on illegal workers leaves 1 dead, 16,000 arrested

Saudi police killed an Ethiopian migrant who tried to flee arrest, authorities said Wednesday, as a crackdown on foreigners working illegally in the kingdom widens with more than 16,000 arrests. The security sweep comes after months of warnings by the Saudi government, which has created a special task force who are combing shops, construction sites and restaurants in search of foreign workers without proper permits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking for 'closure.' Hijacker returns to U.S. from Cuba to face justice

An American who hijacked an airliner to Cuba nearly 30 years ago flew back home Wednesday to face U.S. justice.

FBI agents took William Potts, 56, into custody shortly after his flight from Havana landed at Miami International Airport, said an FBI spokesman. Potts faces a 1985 federal indictment for hijacking a Piedmont Airlines flight in 1984.

In interviews prior to leaving Cuba, Potts said he was seeking "closure" and hoped to convince U.S. prosecutors to give him credit for the 13-plus years he spent in Cuban prison for hijacking the flight.

Even though Potts could have stayed in Cuba, he decided to come home and take his chances with the legal system.

"It's time it had closure. Why leave it hanging, why leave this gaping uncertainty?" he said. "So I want to resolve that because … having completed my sentence, I feel like I want to put all that stuff behind me. I don't want that lingering over or impeding anything I might want to do. Once you've paid your debt to society you're entitled to a fresh start."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Few movies pass new gender-bias rating in Sweden

Study. Of the top 100 U.S. films in 2011, women account for 33% of characters and 11% of protagonists

The director of movie theatre Bio Rio in Stockholm, Ellen Tejle, holds an A-rating certificate. Cinemas in equality-minded Sweden are using the test to highlight an absence of gender bias. AMI BRAMME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You expect movie ratings to tell you whether a film contains nudity, sex, profanity or violence. Now movie theatres in equality-minded Sweden are introducing a new rating to highlight gender bias, or rather the absence of it.

To get an A rating, a movie must pass the so-called Bechdel test, which means it must have at least two named female characters who talk to each other about something other than a man.

"The entire Lord of the Rings' trilogy, all Star Wars movies, The Social Network, Pulp Fiction and all but one of the Harry Potter movies fail this test," said Ellen Tejle, the director of Bio Rio, an art-house movie theatre in Stockholm's trendy Sodermalm district.

Bio Rio is one of four Swedish movie theatres that launched the new rating last month to draw attention to how few movies pass. Most visitors have reacted positively to the initiative and "for some people it has been an eye-opener," said Tejle.

Beliefs about women's roles in society are influenced by the fact that movie watchers rarely see "a female superhero or a female professor or person who makes it through exciting challenges and masters them," Tejle said, noting that the rating doesn't say anything about the quality of the film. "The goal is to see more female stories and perspectives on cinema screens."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cars and smokestacks

Carbon dioxide levels at record high: UN

World carbon dioxide pollution levels in the atmosphere are accelerating and reached a record high in 2012, the UN weather agency said Wednesday.

The heat-trapping gas was measured at 393.1 parts per million last year, up 2.2 ppm from the previous year, said the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization in its annual greenhouse gas inventory.

That is far beyond the 350 ppm that some scientists suggest as the safe upper limit. As the chief gas blamed for global warming, carbon dioxide's 2012 increase outpaced the past decade's average annual increase of 2.02 ppm. It's expected to cross 400 ppm by 2016.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Barbecued' for a cause

Animal-rights activist and co-founder of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Ingrid Newkirk lies on a mock barbecue stand as a sign of protest in Mumbai on Wednesday. The action marks World Vegan Month, which celebrates health, environment and the animal-friendly vegan diet. RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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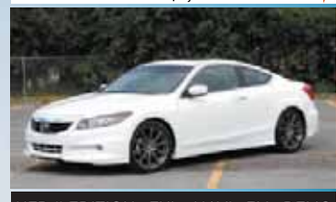
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A toxic relationship?
Canadians have trouble trusting telecom providers

Complaints about wireless data, roaming and Internet bandwidth charges have more than doubled, with Canadian consumers showing increasing distrust of the bills they get from telecom providers, says the industry's watchdog group.

Billing charges involving these three issues generated customer complaints more than 1,500 times in the past year, according to the annual report by the Commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services released on Wednesday.

The non-profit group helps resolve disputes between consumers and telecom service providers.

Howard Maker, commissioner and CEO of the organization, said people have difficulty understanding how their data use is measured and telecoms are falling short on explaining the charges.

"It's not tangible. People really have to rely on their service provider and many Canadians are not prepared to do that," said Maker.

Hard to quantify

"You can't wrap your arms around a gigabyte of data."

Howard Maker, commissioner for Complaints for Telecommunications Services

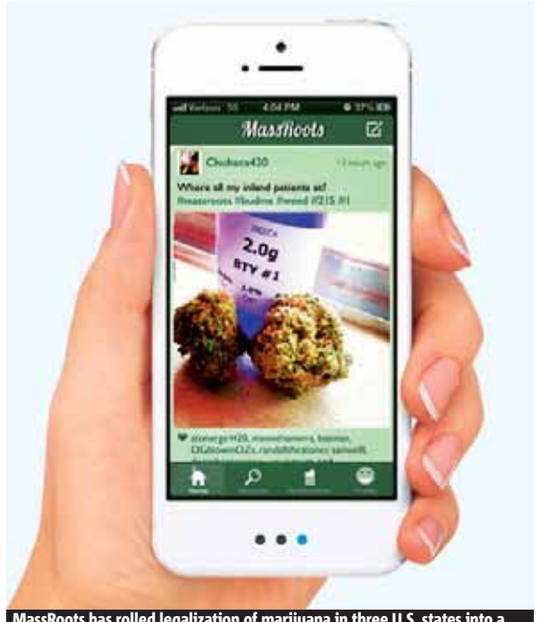
He added the industry should do a better job of relaying how data charges accumulate, such as providing consumers with documentation of the data used upon request.

"In no case that we reviewed did we find a service provider which offered a way to independently verify that the amount of data measured was accurate," the report said.

"We again urge the industry to take greater steps to instil confidence in the metering and billing of data, roaming and bandwidth charges."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The green rush: Investors high on potent profits in U.S.



MassRoots has rolled legalization of marijuana in three U.S. states into a high-grade social-media app for consumers. CONTRIBUTED

Budding business. The legalization of marijuana in some U.S. states has sparked massive growth, with $2.3B US in projected sales in 2014

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

A year after the first three U.S. states legalized marijuana, it has become an irresistible commodity in a booming industry. Conformation of the revolution came in Seattle this week, where investors paid over $1,000 US just to attend a start-up fair and have the chance to buy in.

"It's an extremely professional event full of high-quality opportunities," says Isaac Dietrich, CEO of MassRoots, a social media app for consumers. The 21-year-old has secured $150,000 US in investment from hedge fund managers, and the only way is up.

The "gold rush" includes projected sales figures of over $2.3 billion US next year, according to investors circle ArcView, representing growth of 64 per cent — the fastest of any domestic industry.

Mellowing out on marijuana

A recent Gallup opinion poll showed 58 per cent public support for full legalization. Jim Willett, 62, ex-navy and social conservative, is now among those pro-pot.

- "It's a much broader and more diverse type of company than the early days of just selling (marijuana) pipes," said Willett, who has made $750,000 US from a $150,000 US investment in a specialist marijuana security firm, and holds software and agricultural shares too.

Random biz fact of the day

88%

The job rejection rate if you have a photo of yourself on your CV.
NEXCAREER

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Hire a veteran

Starbucks brews up plan to give war vets jobs

Starbucks says it plans to hire at least 10,000 veterans and military spouses over the next five years.

The Seattle-based coffee company says it will develop a system dedicated to matching the skills of veterans and military spouses with jobs throughout its organization. Starbucks says it has nearly 200,000 employees worldwide.

Several companies in recent years have committed to hiring veterans or military spouses. Earlier this year, for example, Walmart said it planned to hire more than 100,000 veterans over the next five years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B.C. tree planters

Discrimination case nears end

The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal will hear final arguments next month as it considers the case of a group of tree planters who allege they endured slave-like conditions and discrimination while working at a remote camp in southeastern B.C.

The roughly 50 planters, many of them recent immigrants or refugees from Africa, complained about the conditions of the Khaira Enterprises Ltd., camp in July 2010.

Forests ministry officials shut down the camp after the planters were discovered in filthy conditions, without proper shelter or clean water.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rogue rollbacks

Walmart website posts unreal prices

Treadmills for $33? Computer monitors for $9? The deals are too good to be true — even at Walmart.

It turns out they're not.

Walmart says a "technical error" caused certain products to be priced absurdly low or high on its website Wednesday morning.

The company said late Wednesday that it had resolved the issue and Walmart.com is now operating normally.

A spokesman said that the company is notifying customers who ordered these items that their orders have been cancelled and they'll be refunded in full. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vermont. Fans crying in their (microbrewery) beer

A Vermont beer is in such high demand that its makers are shuttering their retail operation to head off the trouble brewing with its neighbours.

Customers lined up at The Alchemist brewery Tuesday to buy cases of Heady Topper, the double IPA that Beer Advocate magazine recently ranked No. 1 out of the top 250 beers in the world.

"We've had complaints from neighbours," co-owner Jen Kimmich said. "We decided to close down before it turns into a large legal battle."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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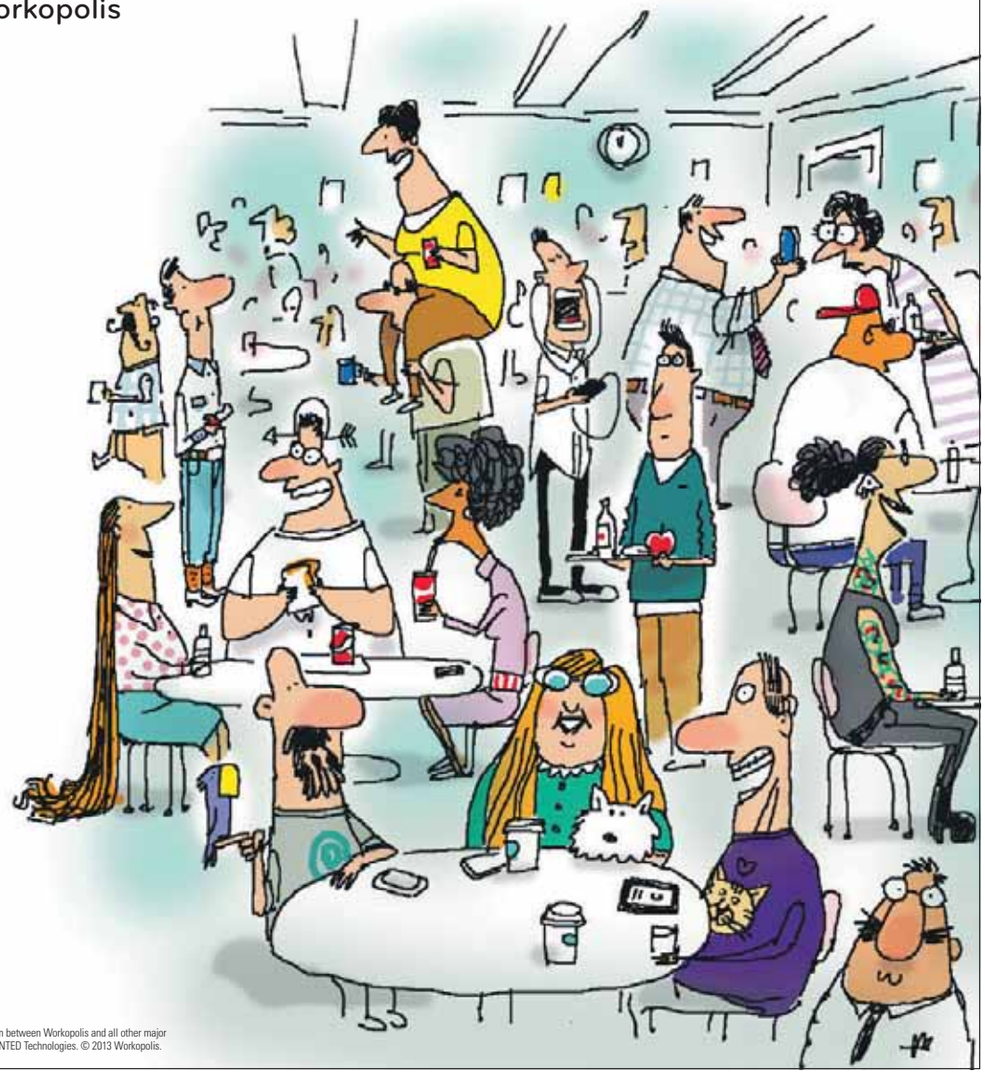

"Number one job site" based on six-month average online job postings for period ending September 30, 2013. Comparison between Workopolis and all other major paid online job boards. Does not include online classified sites or job posting aggregator sites. Statistics provided by WANTED Technologies. © 2013 Workopolis.

Douglas Coupland

Douglas Coupland's latest novel, Worst. Person. Ever., is available from Random House Canada.

Day 4

metronews.ca/temp

Who's the boss?

Meet and grit: How to get ahead

You've likely heard the saying "It's not what you know, it's who you know."

While some might view temp work as just a way to make ends meet, it could be an opportunity to get a better job down the road.

Human-resources expert Laurie Ruettimann told monsterworking.com that being a temporary employee might not land you a full-time gig with a certain company, but the people you connect with could open up future employment doors for you. **METRO IN EDMONTON**

Social security

A way to get your foot in the door

While the money isn't always great, the payoff can be "unbelievable," said a consultant at Supertemp in Halifax, who declined to be identified.

"You meet a lot of clients and companies you wouldn't have a foot in the door with otherwise," she said, adding that about 25 per cent of Supertemp's clients transition to full-time work. **METRO IN HALIFAX**

GETTY IMAGES

Temp's Lack of Jeans Day Spirit Irks Co-workers

I walked into the office the next morning only to experience that sickening pang we all dread: jeans day — enforced perkiness among the girls, while the guys make theatrical, creepy, ass-gazing gropey faces in the lunchroom. No jeans for me.

My jacket wasn't even off when Sarah No. 3 stuffed a wad of documents covered with sticky notes into my hand. "I need these alphabetized like we did last week."

"Fine."

She stared at me.

"Is there a problem?" I asked.

"You know, it wouldn't have been so hard to throw on some jeans today."

"I'm not a very jeans-y person."

"Morale is really down around here and we need some fun."

"OK…"

"It's not even for us, Shannon. It's for the kids."

I gagged and then the phone rang: "Good morning. Taylor, Wagner & Kimura Filter Systems, a proud patriotic company since 1899. One moment, I'll connect you." Then the Danimal rolled up to the desk, winking like mad. "How was last night's, ummm … date?"

"Date? It wasn't a date. It was Mister McFunbury's for exactly 120 minutes."

"And what was Mr. Xu like?"

I wanted to keep my secret. "Nice enough. Limited English, though."

"Did he say anything about the company I should know about?"

Boy did he ever! "No. Mostly we just stared at the How I Met Your Mother reruns playing on the screen above the salad bar." A total lie. "I don't think he's very espionage-y."

"Oh." Danimal seemed let down.

Just then Kyle walked in with a delivery. "Hot and heavy at McFunbury's last night, huh?"

I was peeved. "What the —? It's none of your business, Kyle. And who told you?"

"I was driving back from the oil refinery. Saw you there with your date. Senior's Night, too—rocking!"

Jeans day — enforced perkiness among the girls, while the guys make theatrical, creepy, ass-gazing gropey faces in the lunchroom.

"The refinery? Why were you there?"

"I'm applying for a job."

"Oh." Kyle was acting as if he and I are somehow a real couple. At the same time, there I was getting surprisingly verklempt thinking of no more Kyle, with him working at that big gross refinery for the rest of his life.

Kyle said, "I'm sick of being a temp on wheels, and it's occurring to me that I'll never even be middle class let alone some big success story, and maybe I need to get my foot in the door at a place that is never going to go out of business — hence oil."

The phone rang; it was Xu. "Gotta take this, guys." I picked it up. "Good morning. Taylor, Wagner & Kimura Filter Systems, a proud patriotic company since 1899."

Kyle and the Danimal lumbered off.

I lowered my voice into the receiver. "Hey Shoeboy. How you doing?" **TO BE CONTINUED…**

Random fact of the day

We're obsessed with hole foods:

- There are more doughnut shops in Canada per capita than any other country.

SOURCE: CBC.CA

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NOT GOING TO (C)RACK AND RUIN

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Take a deep breath, everyone.

I'm not going to make a single crack-related pun, because as a front-line witness to this extraordinary week I think it would be in everybody's best interests if I made multiple crack-related puns.

I live in Toronto, and can't begin to explain how dreamlike it's been since police found the video of Mayor Rob Ford smoking cracky tabaccy.

It's one thing to see it from a distance and laugh, but when it's happening right in your city and — uh, hold on, the pro wrestler Iron Sheik just arrived at city hall to challenge Ford to a fight — as I'm writing this.

This will be my last column. I'm off to live in the woods.

Crack is wack: The last few days have been unreal even without professional wrestling; it's like I've been ingesting some intense, illegal narcotic that gives intense feelings of euphoria and disorientation. (EDS: Will be more specific when I think of one.)

As one example, Ford, again as I write this, is showing kids around city hall for Take Your Kids to Work Day. Meanwhile, one of the local news papers has published a lifestyle article, "How To Talk To Your Children About The Mayor."

I live in the Twilight Zone.

Ford is a surreal mayor to begin with. His successful platform of law, order and honesty from an average Joe is an awkward fit for a disorderly crack-smoking liar from a well-to-do family. He also says he's pro-car, but I'm starting to think the next round of court documents will show that whenever nobody's looking he hops on a bicycle.

At least half my conversations lately have been with friends from outside the city who ask: "So, uh… what's up with your mayor?" They ask in a curious but cautious tone, the way you might ask a friend about their upcoming sex change. "We love you no matter what, but could you explain it to me?"

Makes me wonder what it's like at home for people who support Ford. Do they get calls from out-of-province friends who say, "Saw your mayor smoking crack on the news. So jealous! Mine just flips burgers and cuts ribbons."

I used to try to explain Ford's appeal — the suburban support, the fiscal conservatives — but from now on I'm just going to say that 45 per cent of Torontonians adore crack. The city's just as liberal as you've heard, everyone! Pot, schmot. Legalize everything!

Besides, I'm not worried about our international reputation the way some people are. It's not like people aren't going to London, England, because of Mayor Boris, who from a distance sometimes seems like a Ford that drives on the left. And I don't think many people look at Jeffrey Dahmer and think, "Well, that's Wisconsin for you!"

I'm done worrying about Ford. As the mayor himself might say, we need to move forward, not crackward.

I say Toronto — and Canada — should embrace its crazy characters, the mayor included. Otherwise we might go insane. Or put another way, we laugh that we may not crack.

And ... exhale.

ZOOM

Mudslinging? It's mud-singing!

DANIEL TRIM/REX FEATURES

Funny fish seem to be operatic

These wide-mouthed amphibious fish look like they are duetting in an audition for a singing talent show. Wildlife photographer Daniel Trim couldn't believe the strange display unfolding when he spent time watching a group of mudskippers (Oxudercinae).

He observed them pulling a range of funny poses as they languished in the mud at Krabi in Thailand.

"The two mudskippers became very aggressive and lined up side-by-side and postured making strange 'popping' and 'gurgling' noises before viciously attacking each other for several minutes. The loser did eventually retreat with only its pride in tatters," Trim said.

METRO

Living the life

- These amphibious fish live in the Indo-Pacific region and the Atlantic coast of Africa. Many species of mudskipper spend 90 per cent of their time on land.
- These fish fill their gill chambers with water, creating an oxygen tank that allows them to breathe out of water.

Quoted

"This may look like two drunk friends singing their hearts out but this is a territorial display as one male ventures too close to another's burrow."

Daniel Trim, 26, wildlife photographer

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
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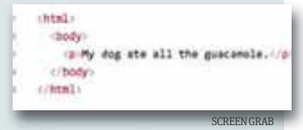

SCREEN GRAB

W3 Schools:

The grandaddy of them all, W3 offers free tutorials in pretty much any development technique you'll need to know in a clean and easy format. An easy recommendation for somebody looking to learn. (w3schools.com)

Code Racer:

Gawd! Lessons and tutorials are just soooooo boring, though, right? How about a little gamification, instead? Swiftly code your way through a series of challenges to get ahead of the competition on the race tracks. Badges. Achievements. It's like Candy Crush, but worth your time. (coderace.me)

Mozilla Developer Network:

A massive wiki curated by devotees of an open web, you'll find a great mix of demos, tutorials and developer guides. Brush up on your skills here before challenging foes on the Code Racer track if you happen to be a sore loser. (developer.mozilla.org)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Canadians are known for politeness, hockey talents and Bryan Adams. Oh and a crack-smoking mayor. What do you think of our new reputation?

@serpentina66: At least now we can sit at the 'cool' table at the UN.

@MadonaW: People act like he's the only person in office that has done anything "bad" I say random drug tests for all politicians #whatnow

@Jihzay_: I bet a surprising amount of mayors smoke crack. Most just avoid video cameras.

@stopspanglish: Ahem, *Toronto* is known for having a crack-smoking mayor.

@Vokal_Apinyawns: @chelseahandler brought @TOMayorFord up on yesterday's show. I am concerned about our reputation. #RealPriorities

@livelifeinneon: only a matter of time before we had some scandal. Maybe now people will stop saying "Eh" to us all the time.

@SteveDodd: NO NO NO Toronto is known for its mayor. He doesn't represent Canada thank you.

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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 26

Don't even get him started on your caps lock

Sweating the small stuff. Tiny things that get this comic's goat

JARED STORY
scene@metronews.ca

For Orny Adams, it's the little things that make life ... so freaking frustrating.

In his 2010 one-hour comedy special Orny Adams Takes The Third, the American comic and star of MTV's Teen Wolf takes umbrage with laundry, GPS, texting and the arrangement of buttons on your computer keyboard.

"I remember there was a big debate over whether I could really be that upset that the caps lock key is that close to the shift," says Adams, 42, on the phone from a stop in Moncton, N.B., on the 2013 Just for Laughs Comedy Tour.

"It's the little things that keep beating me down. You should never walk away from my act and go, 'That guy's angry.' It's justified frustration. What's all the noise the dishwasher's making for the first five minutes before it introduces water? Ga-ga-ga-ga-ga-ga. You open it to add a dish, there's no water! You can't do anything without water. Is it counting dishes? What's it doing?"

Adams delivers his aggravation with an adrenalized, almost manic energy. But, at the same time, the 20-year stand-up vet is an incredibly meticulous comedy writer.

"I come from a different line of comedians, which is Jerry Seinfeld and Garry Shandling, and why I connect to those guys is because we're fascinated with wordplay," Adams says.

"I remember having a discussion with Shandling years ago about a bit I do about this guy who shot his attorney. If you do that bit, but instead of saying "shot his attorney" you say "shot his lawyer," it doesn't get a big laugh at all. It's the same bit, the same meaning, but the word "attorney," the hard t, gets a bigger laugh. That, to me, needs to be studied and examined and understood from a mathematical standpoint."

Punchline precision isn't the only way Adams is connected to Seinfeld.

Adams was featured in the 2002 documentary The Comedian, which focused on Seinfeld, post-sitcom, testing his new routine in the clubs.

Adams is currently working a whole new hour, but says he isn't of the George Carlin, Louis C.K., "record it, then trash it" comedy mindset.

"I feel, unlike many comedians, if you're still emotionally attached to something, like if I'm onstage during this tour and something triggers my dryer sheet bit, I wouldn't be opposed to doing it."

The 2013 Just for Laughs Comedy Tour stops in Calgary on Nov. 17 at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Tickets range from $45.39 to $55.39 at epcorcentre.org. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.

American comic Orny Adams is part of the 2013 Just for Laughs Comedy Tour. CONTRIBUTED

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Sex, love and the age of a dynasty's overthrow

Books. Amy Tan's new novel explores the mother-daughter relationship in the context of a courtesan

It all started with a single photo. Amy Tan was flipping through an old family photo album when she came across a picture of her grandmother she hadn't noticed before. "She was wearing a tight jacket, pants and a headband," Tan remembers. Having read a book about Shanghai in the early 1900s, Tan recognized the garb as the uniform for courtesans, prostitutes with high-society clients. "Of course I was taken back by what this meant about my grandmother and I became very obsessed with the notion that she might have been a courtesan," Tan says.

The book is not based on Tan's grandmother, but it did set the stage for her latest novel, The Valley of Amazement, a story about an American woman and her daughter, who becomes a courtesan during the overthrow of the Ching dynasty.

Similar to Tan's book, The Joy Luck Club, the mother-daughter relationship is a strong theme in her new novel. In the book, the mother betrays her daughter, Violet, by leaving her behind. This abandonment leaves her mark on Violet, who thirsts for an enduring type of love and is not able to fully forgive her mother. "I know what (this feels like) because it happened to my sisters," Tan says. "They were left behind from my mother when she came to the U.S., and although they longed for her and loved her, they never quite forgave her."

Violet's coming of age story is made more complicated when she discovers that she's half-American and half-Chinese. The book takes place in the international settlement in Shanghai, which is where wealthy Westerners were housed. "During this time period, Chinese people were invisible. Nobody would ever consider making friends with a Chinese person," Tan says. For Violet to learn she is bi-racial alienates her from both American privilege and Chinese community. For this part of the story, Tan again was inspired by her ancestors.

"Both on my mother's side and my father's side there were family members who engaged with English-speaking translators," she says.

The Valley of Amazement is Tan's raciest book yet — she had never written a sex scene until penning this book. "I avoided including it, but my editor told me, 'This takes place in a courtesan house. You have to have sex.' Tan put a lot of research into her sex scene, scouring academic books about courtesan houses during this time period.

"Wives actually used to visit courtesan houses and pay money to learn what courtesans did with their husbands, so you knew something special was happening there," she says.

Practice makes perfect

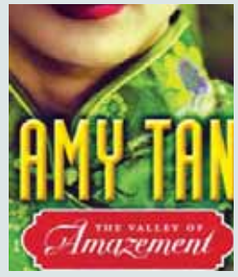
"Wives actually used to visit courtesan houses and pay money to learn what courtesans did with their husbands."

Amy Tan on courtesan houses in China

Amy Tam tries her pen at her first sex scene in The Valley of Amazement. GETTY IMAGES

What's love got to do with it?

More than about sex, family or self-identity, The Valley of Amazement is about betrayal and the age-old question of if love can really conquer all. "Enduring love can come from a mother, lover, husband, or child, but it's about the search for that type of love and what it means," says Tan.



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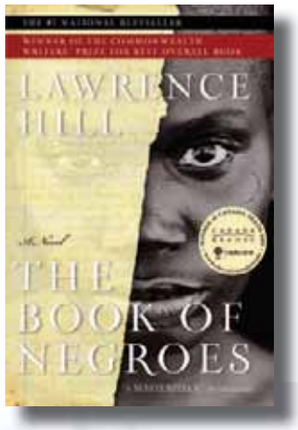

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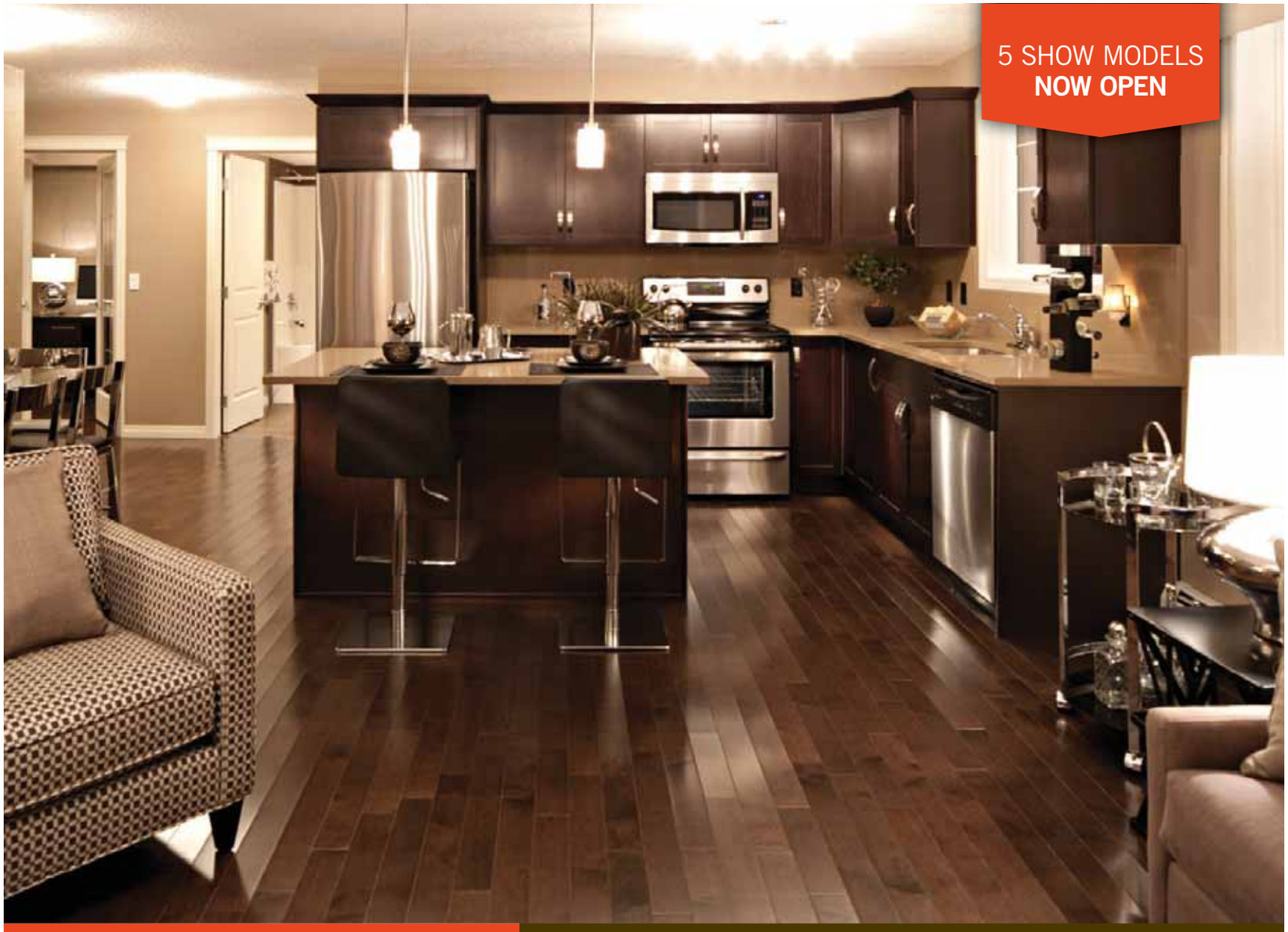

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5 Temps on film

Maybe it's because the indignities suffered by unpaid college students and post-grads provides sexier fodder, but Hollywood is much more enamoured with interns than temps. The spotlight hasn't completely eluded temporary workers, although sunny movies about short-term desk jockeys are in short supply. Temp flicks tend to go dark.

MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO

Clockwatchers

Clockwatchers casts an incisive eye on the everyday travails faced by short-term jobbers (Toni Collette, Parker Posey and Lisa Kudrow) from nobody knowing your name to dealing with maladroit managers, and being shunned in the cafeteria by permanent co-workers. **Lasting Effect:** This office-culture classic set the bar for future films about mind-numbing drudgery, patronizing bosses, and grand theft office supplies.

In the Company of Men

In order to get revenge on womankind two middle managers (Aaron Eckhart and Matt Malloy) conspire to emotionally destroy a deaf temp. They make a pact to make her fall in love with each of them and then break her heart. **Lasting Effect:** Neil LaBute's filmmaking career achieved liftoff after this adaptation of his play. Critics salivated over this envelope pusher and kept on drooling until he remade The Wicker Man.

The Temp

When a cookie company exec's admin assistant takes a leave of absence, the temp who fills in (Lara Flynn Boyle) appears to be a miracle worker. But alas, this is a thriller — so she could possibly be a psycho. That means there's a mounting body count and a twist at the end as tends to be the prerogative of early '90s flicks in the Basic Instinct mould. **Lasting Effect:** Lara Flynn Boyle's bad girl cred remains intact. She recently played the evil witch in Hansel & Gretel Get Baked.

Office Space

This cubicle comedy about working stiffs driven to the edge by their Kafka-esque work environment is a Gen X fave. Office Space may not ostensibly be about temping but it's worthy of inclusion. The inspiration for this classic was a soul-sucking temp job director Mike Judge had in which he was tasked with alphabetizing purchase orders. **Lasting Effect:** A red Swingline stapler is featured prominently in the film but the company didn't have a model that colour — a set designer painted it. Spurred by rabid Office Space fans, Swingline debuted their Rio Red, still a hot seller.

Haiku Tunnel

Absent both Japanese poetry or an underground passageway, this art house agony-of-office-work flick centres around a serial temp in both his career and personal life who is placed at a law firm where he takes on a permanent position. The change from temp to perm wreaks psychological havoc and the former temp can't seem to complete a menial task of mailing 17 of his boss' letters. **Lasting Effect:** The expression "go perm" received a mild pickup.

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It's tough being funny in 140 characters or less

Rob Delaney. Having just released a book, comedian reflects on trying to be funny on multiple platforms

ALEXANDRA CAVALLO
Metro World News in New York

Rob Delaney is pretty famous. But he didn't get there by following the career trajectory that most successful working comedians had to take. Delaney became famous through his Twitter account, where you can find the 36-year-old doling out sharply witty jokes and morsels of irreverent, ironic social commentary in 140 characters or less. Delaney is capable of being funny in long-form as well, however, as is evidenced by his just released book: Mother. Wife. Sister. Human. Warrior. Falcon. Yardstick. Turban. Cabbage. The book is part memoir, part rambling musings, and all funny. We got Delaney on the line to talk about the weird world of Twitter and the pains of standup.

Do you feel a lot of pressure to be funny every time you tweet?

I mean, I like to be funny, but I wouldn't probably call it pressure because — wait, let me rephrase that. Yes, I do feel pressure to be funny, which I enjoy, because I like pressure. You know, I'm one of those people that enjoy deadlines. I enjoy 140-character constraints. I enjoy going onto the stage in front of hostile people. I am damaged or tanked in whatever way makes me want to do those things. For better or for worse.

Well, as far as audiences go, the Twitter audience — or the Internet audience in general — is just about as hostile as it gets. How have you inured yourself to any haters on Twitter?

I've developed thick skin. I like to think about it as a positive. Nobody wants to have people say bad things about them, but it's a good idea to get desensitized to it if you want to have a career in the public. Because there is a measure of truth to the fact,well, that it's indicative of you having some success, you know? Obviously there are people who receive criticism where it's warranted — I can say with confidence that sometimes I deserve criticism that I get. I just try to not stress about it. It's just good that you're able to roll with it. And it helps you onstage too.

How does writing for the Internet, writing for standup and writing a book differ from each other— how do you wear all those hats?

Well, Twitter is very offhand. Whatever turd is rolling through your mind. I put no thought or prep into Twitter. For standup I work painstakingly over months and years to create stories and anecdotes and moods and presentation, Writing for the Internet, if it's Twitter, it's just bon mots of political and pop culture observations. And onstage, I mean I'm really working to create a visceral experience for the audience that demands that they stare at it and listen intently, forces them to laugh. It's physical, and a much stronger connection.

Rob Delaney has Twitter to thank for his success. CONTRIBUTED

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Justin Bieber. ALL IMAGES GETTY

Spray what you like about Justin but he loves graffiti

The website of Brazil's biggest news outlet published photos Wednesday it says show pop star Justin Bieber spray painting graffiti on a wall. And it adds that police want to question him about it. The O Globo newspaper reported that photographers snapped photos of Bieber as he painted graffiti on a wall of the former Hotel Nacional in Rio de Janeiro Tuesday morning. Defacing buildings is a crime in Brazil punishable by up to one year in jail and a fine. O Globo said police went to the mansion Bieber rented in Rio to question him, but he was not there. Phone calls and emails to the police department for more details went unanswered. Calls and emails to Bieber representatives Melissa Victor, Nick Styne and Aaron Rosenberg were not returned. In the Colombian capital of Bogota, where he performed last week, Bieber upset authorities when he spray-painted graffiti on a wall along one of the capital city's main avenues while being escorted by officers in a police car. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Is Will Smith stepping out with co-star Margot Robbie?

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Will Smith reportedly had a steamy romp in a photo booth at a party with Focus co-star Margot Robbie, which may spell trouble for his allegedly shaky marriage to Jada Pinkett Smith, according to Star magazine. At the pre-Halloween bash in New Orleans, sources say Smith and Robbie slipped into the photo booth to pose for some snaps commemorating the night. "Once they pulled the curtain back to take the pictures, they let their inhibitions run wild, laughing, hugging and nuzzling each other in the dark," the source says. "He wasn't acting like a married man. He gave no signs that he was in a committed relationship." Smith and Robbie didn't stick around to collect the photos, though, as Smith's assistant snapped them up once they were printed. "After they left the party, they were gone all night," the source says. Apparently, Jada and Will Smith are living separate lives; they haven't appeared in public together since August. Smith has been in New Orleans for work since mid-September while Pinkett Smith has reportedly moved out of the family's home and is living with her brother, Caleb, in Calabasas, Calif. Is it bad that I'm OK with Will and Jada breaking up? They made it 15 years — that is several lifetimes for a union in Hollywood. What more do we want from them?

Abigail Breslin

Sun sets on Miss Breslin's innocent youth

Little Miss Sunshine star Abigail Breslin is apparently all grown up at 17 years old — at least grown up enough to have a 25-year-old boyfriend. Breslin has reportedly "just started dating" All Time Low singer Jack Barakat, according to E! News. Breslin and Barakat were photographed together at the premiere for her latest film, Ender's Game, and he "visited her on the set of her new movie." Her rep had no comment.

Twitter

@DanaDelany
When I was 5, a raccoon took a sandwich out of my hand. I think he's outside my bedroom glass door. #truelove4ever

@NiallOfficial
I'm havin the weirdest few days with this jetlag! Weird stuff keeps happening to me!

@ParisHilton
Trying to decide what to do for New Years. Getting so many offers from around world from so many amazing places that it's hard to choose.

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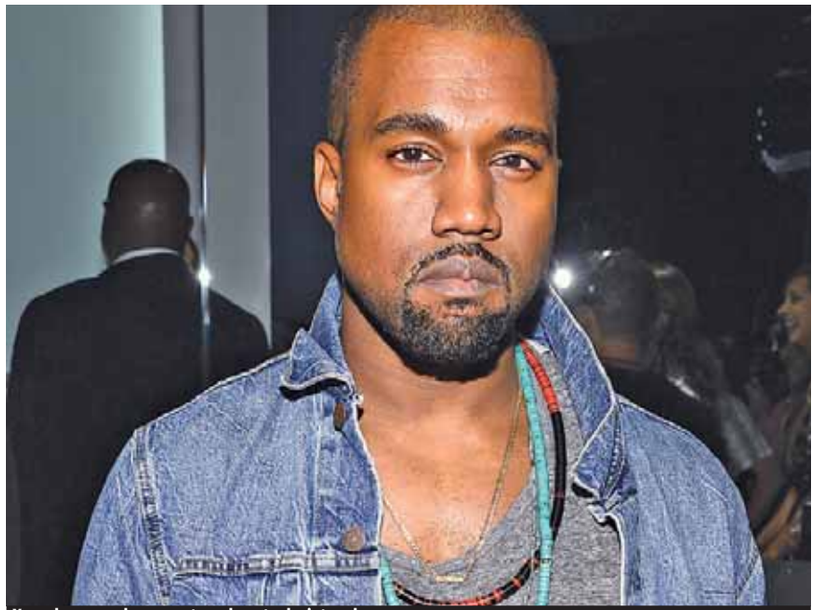
They give him Maison, when he's in need...

Tour de frock. From CD-Rom veils to re-purposed vintage gowns, Kanye West is determined to make fashion news, one way or another

ALICE TATE
Metro World News


Yeezy has never been one to rock yesterday's trends. PROVIDED

It's been a big month for Kanye West. First, he puts a 15-carat rock on the finger of that small-time fiancée of his, Kim Kardashian. Next, he gets a giant wardrobe delivery courtesy of Maison Martin Margiela.

The French fashion house that has forever been shrouded in mystery has provided the singer with all of the outfits for his coming Yeezus tour. The extensive custom-made collection consists of 20 ready-to-wear pieces, 10 couture pieces, and a rumoured "exclusive" pair of trainers — we're intrigued.

The tour — the rapper's first solo concert trail in five years, which is taking him around North America — has unsurprisingly already garnered much music media attention. Heck, it even has its own Wikipedia page. But now, with the news of Margiela's involvement, it's caught the eye of the fashion world, too. We spoke to Margiela's team who answered the questions we were dying to know — except for the big one: will Margiela have any involvement in the wedding? For now, that one remains a mystery.

How involved has Kanye been in designing the collection?
The collection is a rework of Maison Martin Margiela's haute couture archive pieces. They have been chosen both by Kanye and the Maison. The Maison then researched new fabrics and volumes to reinterpret the pieces and match contemporary artist Vanessa Beecroft's scenography.

Can you guide us through some of the key pieces?
An elongated embroidered bomber jacket was remade from a 1900s lady's dress; a coat was made out of military blankets; and military jackets were assembled together to create an oversized cape. As for the veils, some have been reinterpreted from our archives, while others were created specially for the Yeezus tour. Four different veils complete the set— one is composed of marble pieces and another one is made from CD-ROMs. All are embroidered on a silk chiffon base.

How long has it taken to pull the outfits together?
It took approximately five weeks from the first piece of research to the final fittings.

Are celebrity relations and outfits a direction Margiela is looking to take?
The Maison still has a very discreet policy in terms of celebrity dressing but we always choose to work with people we feel close to.

Will any of the pieces from the tour retail?
None of these pieces will be sold. Similar sneakers can be found in store as they are Margiela classics but this pair were reproduced in special colours for the Yeezus tour.

Selective style

"The Maison still has a very discreet policy in terms of celebrity dressing but we always choose to work with people we feel close to."
Maison Martin Margiela team

Grilled Maple-Glazed Apple Slice a day keeps doctor away

The recipe makes about 1 cup of glaze, but you won't need all of it. The extra can be covered and refrigerated for several weeks. It is delicious over pancakes, waffles, French toast or ice cream. It also is great used on chicken, turkey and pork.

1. Glaze: In small, heavy-bottomed saucepan over low heat, combine maple syrup, cider and sugar. Stir to dissolve sugar, then add the cinnamon stick, star anise and cloves. Bring to a simmer and cook until reduced by about a quarter. Stir in 1 teaspoon of the soy sauce. Taste and adjust with more, if desired. Let cool to room temperature, then remove the spices.

2. Heat grill to medium-low.

3. With apple corer, cut out cores and seeds from apples, leaving apples otherwise whole. Setting the apples on their sides, cut each into 1/2-inch-thick rings. Brush both sides of each apple ring with oil.

4. When the grill is ready, place the apple rings on the grill grates and cook with the grill covered for 2 minutes per side, or until they have deep grill marks on both sides. Brush the tops of the apple rings with glaze, then cook for another 2 minutes. Turn over, brush with more glaze, then grill for another 2 minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ELIZABETH KARMEL, AUTHOR OF SOAKED, SLATHERED AND SEASONED.

Grilled Maple-Glazed Apple Slices

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

Glaze:
- 1 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup apple cider
- 1/4 cup dark brown sugar
- 1 cinnamon stick
- 2 whole star anise
- 1/8 tsp ground cloves
- 1 to 2 tsp soy sauce (optional)
- 2 large tart apples, such as Granny Smith
- Vegetable oil

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Pricing in effect Thursday, November 7 to Sunday, November 10, 2013. Actual items may vary slightly from illustrations. Some illustrations are serving suggestions only. We reserve the right to limit quantities. GST is extra where applicable.

For your phone

Lush Mixed Drinks (iPhone; $1.99)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

The best guide to the most sought-after drinks, Lush uses playful animations and a simple navigation to make it easy to find and save drinks by flavour, ingredient and even movies.

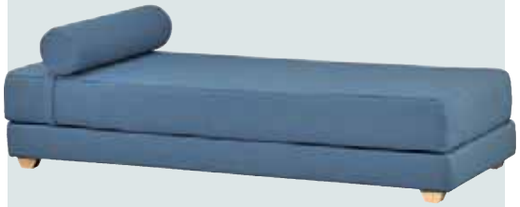
Double-duty daybeds

The daybed has been a furnishing staple for hundreds of years, and with good reason — it's the perfect blend of sofa and guest bed. It works in a small space as a double-duty piece, and in a large space, it can float in the middle of a room.

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Chic and colourful

It's a stylish lounge by day, but flips out into an oversized queen bed by night. Lubi Turquoise Sleeper Daybed, $999, cb2.com.



Storage solution

Simple lines, a stylish tufted mattress and storage drawers mean this works as a spare bed or home-office perch. Stratton Daybed With Drawers, $2,090, potterybarn.com.

Two-sided perch

Because this is open on each side, it's the perfect two-sided perch when floated in the middle of a long room. Natuzzi Sassi Leather Daybed, $1,800, sears.ca.

The all-rounder

A bed, couch and storage all in one. Ikea PS Daybed, $599, ikea.ca.

Room for a crowd

Extra length and traditional lines make this custom piece hip and happening. Nine Foot Field Bench, $4,500 US, johnderian.com.

Entertaining

Don't be a guest at your own party

Is there really such a thing as carefree entertaining?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Though the era of domestic staff is long over, many people are still trying to convince the modern-day host that it's somehow possible to entertain at home stress-free while acting like a guest at your own party.

Well, I'm here to tell you that there is nothing further from the truth.

Yes, a get-together at your home can be done with a minimum of stress depending on how you plan your menu. Let me give you a few examples. If you're going to be cooking the dinner, choose menu items that you can make ahead of time. Then all you have to do is put them on the stove or in the oven, and pay them relatively little attention until they're ready. A beef stew, lasagna or roast chicken are great examples. Make your salad ahead of time too, so all you need to do when you serve it is to add your homemade dressing. Have your friends bring a ready-made cake for dessert. You, my readers, get the point.

But as for the question of whether you can act like a guest at your own party, the answer is — never.

You see, as a host, you have the important responsibility of ensuring your guests are having a good time. You want to make sure they always have a drink in hand, that the dip for your hors d'oeuvres is fresh, and that everyone has something to eat and, most importantly, someone interesting or fun to talk to. What this means is that you can never completely relax as a guest would.

You can and absolutely should have a good time — just don't confuse having a good time with abdicating your responsibilities as a host.

By all means have a good time at your own party, Charles says, but don't forget your responsibilities toward your guests. ISTOCK

SPORTS 4

Stamps keeping calm, stamping on

CFL. With Johnson, Bolden and McDaniel ruled out for West Final, Calgary confident in depth to carry it through

Jon Cornish, left, and Dr. Ian Auld help Stampeders lineman Micah Johnson after a knee injury last Friday in Vancouver. Johnson, Demonte Bolden and Marquay McDaniel will all miss the West semifinal Nov. 17. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Calgary Stampeders refuse to let a few injuries to key players dampen their enthusiasm heading into the CFL playoffs.

Calgary finished atop the CFL standings with a 14-4 record and earned the right to host the West Division final at McMahon Stadium on Nov. 17 against either the Saskatchewan Roughriders or the BC Lions.

In their final game of the regular season in Vancouver last Friday, the Stamps suffered a 26-7 setback to the Lions and also lost the services of three starters due to injury in the first half.

Defensive linemen Micah Johnson and Demonte Bolden both injured knee ligaments and receiver Marquay McDaniel sustained a high ankle sprain. With all three deemed unable to play in the West Final, the Stamps will count on other players to step up in their absence.

"That's been our mindset all year," said defensive tackle Junior Turner. "Guys have gone down and out and guys have filled in."

Running back Jon Cornish, who was one of 10 Calgary players named to the CFL's West Division all-star team on Wednesday, said that dealing with injuries is nothing new for the Stamps.

"We're a team that played through all kinds of injuries last year and we came into this season virtually the same team," said Cornish. "We understood that people get hurt playing football, so I don't ever think that we need to do any rallying. The next guy up did what they needed to do and they understood that they either did it right or they're off the team."

Calgary coach John Hufnagel said that Turner and Etienne Legare will be counted upon to anchor Calgary's defensive line up the middle, while he'll also consider activating Earl Okine and/or Oren Wilson from the practice roster.

The Stamps received some good news on Wednesday as Joe West returned to practice after missing the past three games with a shoulder injury, while fellow receiver Brad Sinopoli is close to making his return from a concussion he sustained during Calgary's 27-13 win on Oct. 18 in Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stampeders all-stars

Calgary grabbed a league-leading 10 spots on the western squad as the division all-star teams were announced Wednesday.

- The Stamps' Jon Cornish, the CFL rushing leader, was named the West's running back ahead of runner up Kory Sheets of the Riders.
- Other Calgary offensive all-stars were R Marquay McDaniel and OLs Brett Jones, Jon Gott and Stanley Bryant.
- DE Charleston Hughes and LB Juwan Simpson were selected as defenders and K Rene Paredes, P Rob Maver ST Larry Taylor took special-teams honours.

Women's hockey

Canada edges U.S. early at 4 Nations

Natalie Spooner broke a tie on a 5-on-3 power play with 3:30 left, and Canada beat the United States 4-2 on Wednesday night in the Four Nations Cup women's hockey tournament.

Megan Bozek and Josephine Pucci gave Canada the two-player advantage with delay-of-game penalties 1:18 apart.

Brianne Jenner added an empty-net goal with 12 seconds to go, Haley Irwin and Melanie Daoust also scored and Genevieve Lacasse stopped 21 shots for Canada. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada celebrates Melanie Daoust's goal on Wednesday in Lake Placid, N.Y. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

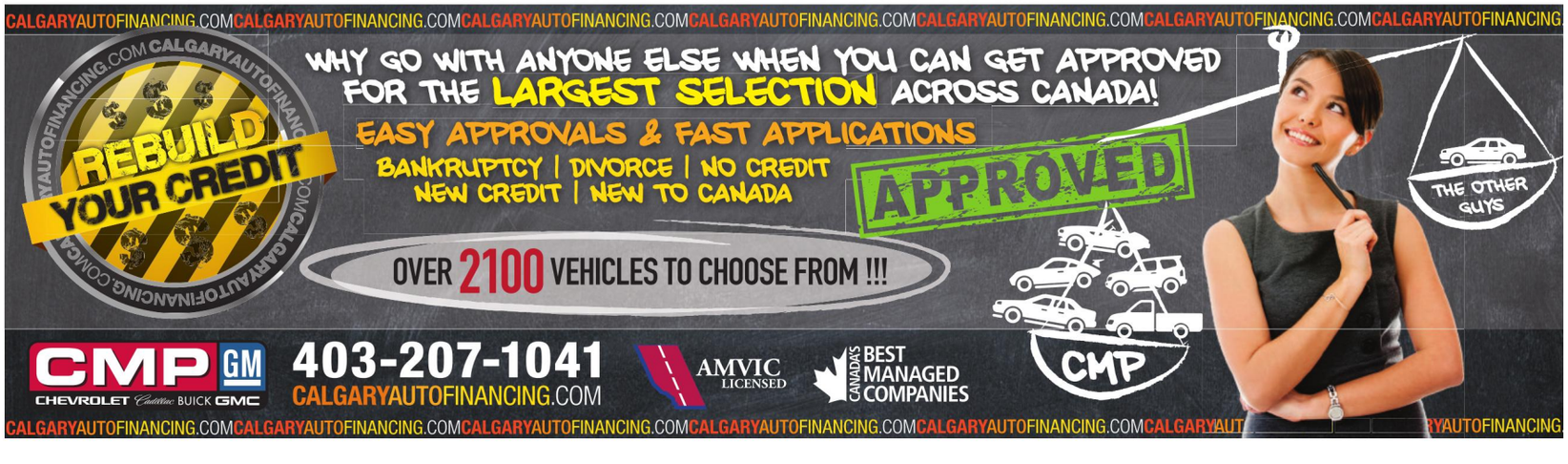
NBA

Henderson burns Raps in Charlotte

Gerald Henderson broke out of his shooting slump with a season-high 23 points, and the surprising Charlotte Bobcats defeated the Toronto Raptors 92-90 Wednesday night.

After signing an $18-million, three-year contract in the off-season, Henderson came in shooting just 31 per cent through the first four games. But he got off to a fast start this time and finished 10 of 17 from the field.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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The Flames could fetch a first-round draft pick in return for trading Mike Cammalleri. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Hey-diddly-ho: There is a bright side to all of the Flames' woes

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Brian Costello
calgary@metronews.ca

At risk of sounding like Ned Flanders, Flames fans can take solace in the fact that with each setback, the future gets a bit brighter.

The injury to captain Mark Giordano was devastating. He was off to a career season, producing and playing rock-solid defensively. It may be a long November without him.

Replacing him among Calgary's top-four D-men is Chris Butler. Best suited to be a No. 6-7 bubble man, Butler has seen his ice time ramp up from about 15 minutes a game to more than 22. While that's not ideal from a bottom-line perspective — trying to win games — it does help boost Butler's stock.

Butler is a pending UFA in 2014 and the Flames would be fools to re-up him. Heck, I couldn't believe Calgary gave him a 36 per cent raise to $1.7 million this past summer. After his slow start, I figured the best the Flames could get for him at the trade deadline would be a fifth-round draft pick, like they got for Blake Comeau a year ago. Now as he fills in for Giordano, perhaps there's a contender looking for defensive depth willing to part with a third round-pick for Butler. We just hope they don't scout games too closely.

Same with Matt Stajan, also in the final year of his $3.5-million deal. He's outmuscled by just about every No. 1 centre, but if he can score at a 40 or 50-point pace, kill penalties, win some faceoffs and play a shutdown role, maybe there's a Cup challenger looking for a reliable No. 3 pivot and willing to offer up a second-round pick. (OK, I'll take a third). The downside is Mikael Backlund is relegated to the fourth line until Stajan is moved.

Calgary is also wise to play Mike Cammalleri 20-plus minutes a night. Make the pending UFA a workhorse on the power play. He's off to a good start and if he's close to 30 goals by the trade deadline (61 games), he's sure to bring back a first-round pick in return. His track record in the playoffs alone (17 goals and 32 points in 32 games) will make him a coveted commodity.

It's also important to know the 2014 draft is considered mediocre. Sliding down the standings and picking in the top five, if that comes to pass, is what Mr. Flanders would call diddly doodly consolation.

Pittsburgh-New York

Rangers in rare form, pound Pens

Brian Boyle scored his first goal of the season and Ryan Callahan added his first since returning from a broken thumb as the New York Rangers cruised to a 5-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Rangers' Benoit Pouliot checks Robert Bortuzzo of the Penguins on Wednesday night. GETTY IMAGES

Winnipeg-Chicago

Blackhawks ground Jets

Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane scored in the first period, leading the Chicago Blackhawks to a 4-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Wednesday night.

It was the Blackhawks' fourth win in five games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Tampa Bay	14	10	4	0	47	35	20
Toronto	15	10	5	0	48	36	20
Detroit	16	9	5	2	40	41	20
Boston	14	8	5	1	38	28	17
Montreal	16	8	7	1	43	34	17
Ottawa	15	5	6	4	46	48	14
Florida	15	3	8	4	31	53	10
Buffalo	17	3	13	1	31	53	7

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	16	11	5	0	49	38	22
Washington	15	8	7	0	50	42	16
NY Islanders	15	6	6	3	47	50	15
NY Rangers	15	7	8	0	31	41	14
Carolina	15	5	7	3	29	45	13
Columbus	14	5	9	0	34	40	10
New Jersey	14	3	7	4	26	42	10
Philadelphia	14	4	9	1	22	39	9

Wednesday's results
NY Rangers 5 Pittsburgh 1
Chicago 4 Winnipeg 1
Nashville at Colorado
Phoenix at Anaheim

Tuesday's results
Dallas 3 Boston 2 (SO)
Ottawa 4 Columbus 1
Washington 6 NY Islanders 2
Edmonton 4 Florida 3 (OT)
St. Louis 3 Montreal 2 (SO)
Carolina 2 Philadelphia 1 (OT)
Minnesota 5 Calgary 1
Phoenix 3 Vancouver 2 (SO)
Buffalo 5 San Jose 4 (SO)

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Colorado	13	12	1	0	42	19	24
Chicago	16	10	2	4	56	43	24
Minnesota	16	9	4	3	43	35	21
St. Louis	13	9	2	2	47	31	20
Nashville	14	7	5	2	31	40	16
Dallas	15	7	6	2	40	44	16
Winnipeg	17	6	9	2	40	51	14

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	16	12	3	1	52	40	25
San Jose	15	10	1	4	57	32	24
Phoenix	16	11	3	2	54	48	24
Vancouver	17	10	5	2	48	44	22
Los Angeles	15	9	6	0	43	40	18
Calgary	15	6	7	2	43	54	14
Edmonton	16	4	10	2	40	62	10

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's games
All Times Eastern
Minnesota at Washington, 7 p.m.
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at Carolina, 7 p.m.
NY Rangers at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Buffalo at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's games
New Jersey at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Nashville at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Buffalo at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

MLS PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NEW YORK VS. HOUSTON

Wednesday's result
Leg 2 — Houston 2 New York 1 (extra time)

SPORTING KC VS. NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday's result
Leg 2 — New England at Sporting KC, 9 p.m.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

PORTLAND VS. SEATTLE

Thursday's game
Leg 2 — Seattle at Portland, 11 p.m.

REAL SALT LAKE VS. LA GALAXY

Thursday's game
Leg 2 — LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake, 9 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	5	0	1.000	—
Philadelphia	3	2	.600	2
Orlando	3	2	.600	2
Miami	3	2	.600	2
Charlotte	3	2	.600	2
Atlanta	2	2	.500	2½
Detroit	2	2	.500	2½
Milwaukee	2	2	.500	2½
Brooklyn	2	2	.500	2½
Toronto	2	3	.400	3
Cleveland	2	3	.400	3
Chicago	1	3	.250	3½
New York	1	3	.250	3½
Washington	1	3	.250	3½
Boston	1	4	.200	4

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	4	1	.800	—
Golden State	4	1	.800	—
Houston	4	1	.800	—
Oklahoma City	2	1	.667	1
Dallas	3	1	.750	½
Minnesota	3	2	.600	1
L.A. Clippers	3	2	.600	1
Phoenix	3	2	.600	1
Portland	2	2	.500	1½
New Orleans	2	3	.400	2
L.A. Lakers	2	3	.400	2
Memphis	2	3	.400	2
Sacramento	1	3	.250	2½
Denver	0	3	.000	3
Utah	0	5	.000	4

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Wednesday's results
Orlando 98 L.A. Clippers 90
Washington 116 Philadelphia 102
Charlotte 92 Toronto 90
Indiana 97 Chicago 80
Boston 97 Utah 87
Golden State 106 Minnesota 93
Milwaukee 109 Cleveland 104
New Orleans 99 Memphis 84
San Antonio 99 Phoenix 96
Dallas at Oklahoma City

CFL PLAYOFFS

DIVISION SEMIFINALS

EAST DIVISION
Sunday's game — All Times Eastern
Montreal vs. Hamilton (at Guelph, Ont.), 1 p.m.

WEST DIVISION
Sunday's game — All Times Eastern
B.C. at Saskatchewan, 4:30 p.m.
Byes: Toronto (East), Calgary (West)

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Do you feel good about yourself or do you feel guilty about some of the things you have done? If it's the latter, don't worry: fate is about to provide you with an opportunity to make amends. Take it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you have something to say, say it now because after today it won't be so easy to find the right words. It does not matter if you are right or wrong, it matters only that you get your opinions out into the world.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Make an effort to talk to people about your dreams today. Don't be shy: Let them know what it is you desire most and how you intend to get it. If they are aware of your needs, they may be able to assist you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
No matter how much you were looking forward to some down time over the next few days, the planets indicate you will have to put your social plans on hold for a while. It's your fault for leaving a task half-finished.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Be wary of someone who wants to know all about you. It could be they are being friendly but it could also be they are looking for information they can use against you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You may think you have to adjust your long-term ambitions but from the look of your chart, you should let the current scenario work itself out.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Learn how to adapt because if you don't, you will be left behind. The world is changing by the day, the hour, the minute, and you must change with it. It's a matter of survival.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Is someone trying to confuse you or are you confusing yourself? From the look of your solar chart, it is most likely the latter. Get your head and then your act together! Life is simple when reduced to its essentials.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The only way to resolve a disagreement is to refuse to argue about it. You should know by now that some people are so extreme in their views that they can never be reasoned with. Ignore them.

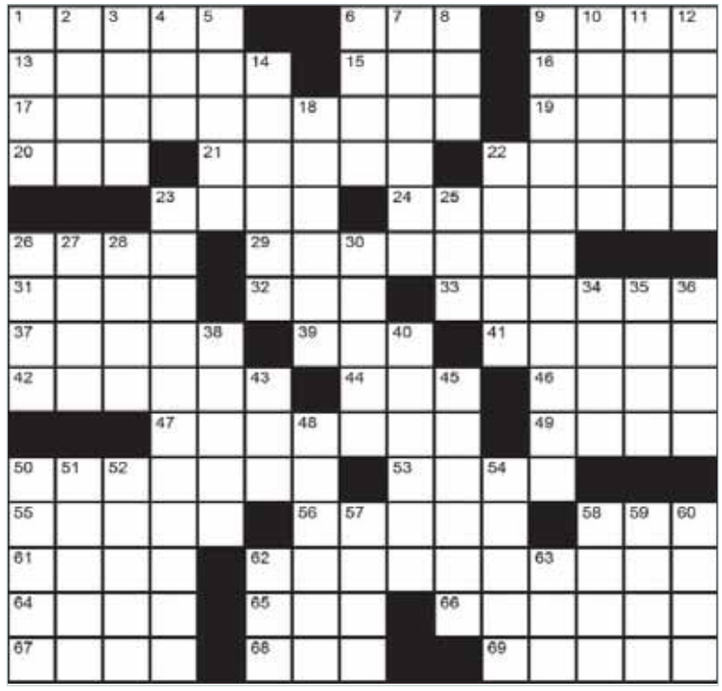
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Jupiter, planet of good fortune, turns retrograde today but that does not mean your lucky streak is about to end. It does mean though that you need to take other people's feelings into account a bit more.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You may feel sorry that a friend is having problems but is there anything practical you can do to help? If there is, do it. If there isn't, stay out of the way.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
A decision will have to be reviewed in the light of new information and, you must admit that you got it wrong. Mistakes are a fact of life. It's whether you learn from them that matters. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

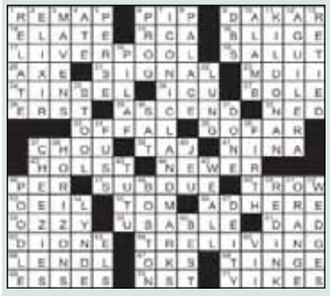
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Toronto's CFL team, commonly
6. Fall behind
9. Alphabet sequence
13. Internet: 2 wds.
15. 1954 Rosemary Clooney hit: "This __ House"
16. "I need _ __." (Dusting demand)
17. Springdale, Newfoundland born actress Natasha
19. Fun construction set
20. Roosted
21. Trumpet-playing Muppet
22. "The Six Million Dollar Man" character Mr. Goldman
23. Horn honk
24. Sky's streaks of light
26. "Good Times" disco group
29. Airport northwest of Montreal
31. Wood strip
32. Singer Ms. Sumac
33. One of classical music's 'Three Bs'
37. Saint __ Mountains (Range where Mount Vancouver is)
39. Author Ms. LeShan
41. Violinist Mr. Stern
42. PMO = Prime Minister's __
44. Suffix meaning 'Sort of'
46. "Howdy!": 2 wds.
47. Bar sing-a-long
49. Panache
50. Much-studied-a-subject expert
53. Some trees
55. Secret chest
56. Things over there
58. Mantric syllables
61. Pines
62. "Hockey Night in Canada", for one: 2 wds.
64. Potato __ (Sort of soup)
65. Furthermore
66. Serena Ryder hit
67. Water's whirl-ee
68. Research paper, e.g.
69. Ms. Spacek

Down
1. Olympics participants, for short
2. Ms. Perlman
3. Fine fellow
4. Famous talk show maven ...her initials-sharers
5. Ready, __, __!
6. City in Poland
7. Sault Ste. Marie: __ University
8. Barry Gibb, Bee __
9. Makeup kit items: 2 wds.
10. __-Roman wrestling
11. Rock singer Sammy who has fronted Van Halen
12. Mr. Stravinsky's
14. Like a floor-sweeping implement
18. Sooner or later: 2 wds.
22. SNL alum Cheri
23. 1892 ballet The Nutcracker composer, b.1840 - d.1893
25. Reflux
26. Mark Antony's love, for short
27. Fifty percent
28. "I can't help __ __..." (Excuse start)
30. Car's dashboard item
34. Salute
35. SNL alum Ms. Rudolph
36. Glance over
38. Reduce, __ back on
40. Request: 2 wds.
43. 'E' in BCE
45. Stickups
48. Lada Gaga's new album
50. Vogue concern
51. "With Arms Wide Open": 2000 hit for what band?
52. Perfected
54. Breaks
57. Laugh-a-minute
58. Electrical resistance units
59. Cleaning implements
60. Affect, as opinion
62. Bering, e.g.
63. "...or __ _ thought."

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	4	8	6	9	3	5	1
8	9	1	7	5	3	4	2	6
5	3	6	1	2	4	9	8	7
3	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	9
9	1	7	5	3	6	2	4	8
2	6	8	9	4	7	5	1	3
4	7	3	6	1	2	8	9	5
6	5	2	3	9	8	1	7	4
1	8	9	4	7	5	6	3	2

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: -2° MIN: -6°	MAX: -2° MIN: -7°	MAX: 1° MIN: -11°

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STK# 131634

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$33,819*

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2013 TOYOTA RAV4 AWD

STK# 131442

$187/BW* -OR-

$26,998*

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when you spend $80 or more.[2]

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when you spend $75 or more.[3]

The Children's Place

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20 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
when you spend $60 or more.[4]

The Shoe Company

November 8-10, earn
7X the AIR MILES reward miles
on each item when total purchase is $120 or more. SKU: 991-811-981-0001
OR
5X the AIR MILES reward miles
on each item when total purchase is $80 or more. SKU: 991-811-980-0001[5]

Shell

November 4 – December 8, earn
10X the AIR MILES reward miles
with Shell V-Power premium fuel.
OR
2X the AIR MILES reward miles
with Shell Bronze, Silver or Diesel fuel.[6] No coupon required![6] Min $30 fuel purchase per transaction.[6]

RONA

Until November 27, earn
3X the AIR MILES reward miles
on any purchase of $60 or more before taxes. Coupon required.[7]

marlin travel

November 1-30, earn
250 BONUS AIR MILES reward miles
when you book a Transat Holidays or Nolitours sun vacation.[8]

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For more information, go to airmiles.ca/holidayevent4

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Please allow 8 weeks post-promotion for Bonus reward miles to be credited to your Collector Account. Base offer is 1 reward mile for every $30 spent at any Toys"R"Us and Babies"R"Us store location and online at toysrus.ca and babiesrus.ca in each calendar month after all discounts and exclusions (listed above) are applied. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES® International Trading B.V. used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Toys"R"Us (Canada) Ltd. **3 Staples:** Offer valid November 8-10, 2013. Earn 20 Bonus AIR MILES reward miles on eligible purchase(s) with a net transaction of $75 or more in a single transaction, after discounts and before taxes. AIR MILES Collector Card must be included at time of purchase. Offer valid at all participating STAPLES in-store locations. Not valid on phone or online orders at Staples.ca. 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Maximum number of 290 reward miles to be awarded per qualifying transaction. No coupon required. ®™Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Shell Canada Products. ®Trademark of Shell Brands International AG. Used under license. **7 RONA:** Excluding taxes and the purchase of gift cards. Offer valid November 7-27, 2013. AIR MILES Bonus offer available at participating RONA stores upon presentation of the coupon. Cannot be combined with any other offer, with the exception of Bonus offers on products. Bonus offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount. Some conditions apply. Details in-store. **8 Transat:** Offer is valid on new, individual Transat Holidays and Nolitours vacation packages only including airfare and a minimum of 7 nights accommodation at a participating resort, booked between November 1-30, 2013 for departures December 21, 2013 – April 30, 2014. 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